

CARELESS SMOKER ENDANGERS NEW COUNTRY CLUB

Fire Breaks Out on Top
Floor of Unfinished
Building.

NEIGHBORS MAKE GALLANT FIGHT

Chemical Apparatus and Bucket
Brigades Beat Back Flames
Inch by Inch—May Delay
Opening of Handsome
New Club-
house.

But for the heroic efforts of work-
men on the place and people living
nearby, the Country Club, which is
nearing completion at a cost of \$75,000,
would, in all probability, have been
completely destroyed by fire last night.
Damage, through the carelessness of
some smoker, was inflicted to the
extent of about \$1,500.

The fire originated in one of the
bedrooms on the top floor, and when
first observed by S. H. Banks, a painter
who is working on the building, the
whole place seemed to be on fire.
Flames and smoke were issuing
from the windows, and sparks were
falling on the outside, threatening
every moment to ignite the lower por-
tion of the clubhouse.

Mr. Banks called to Special County
Constable Bendall, and rushed to the
building, and both men fought their
way upstairs. J. T. Carston, manager
of Westhampton grounds, who keeps
guard over the building every Sunday,
also saw the blaze from his house near-
by, and ran across, shouting the alarm.
Within a few minutes nearly
every resident in Westhampton had
heard the call and had answered the
alarm.

Bucket Brigade Formed.
Fortunately the 500-gallon tank,
which is stationed now just outside of
the clubhouse, at the front entrance,
was full, and an unbroken bucket
brigade was formed. While one stood at
the top of the tank, others had formed
on the ladder below him, and in a solid
line through the building up to the
burning floor. Others got water from
the spigot at the bottom of the tank,
and it required only a few seconds to
pass a bucket from the tank to where
the fire was raging. Robert H. Talley,
Hugh Dabney, Cunningham Hall and
Frank Powers, who live around about
the Country Club, took part in the
struggle, and with might and main
tried to check the flames. Though he-
ing passed with the greatest rapidity,
the water seemed to have little effect,
and hand chemical apparatus was
brought by Mr. Talley and Mr. Dab-
ney. Holding their coats over their
heads, they directed the water to a van-
tage point and directed the stream to
the midst of the fire. What the water
had apparently failed to do, the chem-
ical apparatus accomplished, and after
an hour of hard work the last vestige
of the fire had died out and the smoke
had subsided. However, the structural
walls were still hot, and the structural
material remained in the building to
see that no further danger should
threaten.

Confined to Top Floor.
Though the fire was confined to the
top floor, several of the bedrooms were
completely ruined and will have to be
rebuilt. Much water soaked through
the ceiling, and it is probable that a
large square of plastering will have to
be replaced. The hardest moment came
when the fire had crept beneath the
floor, and it was feared that the Dabney
and Mr. Talley brought their coats over
holders into good play. Nearly all the
water in the tank was used, and Mr.
Talley then attempted to get water from
his 1,000-gallon tank. But the hose was
not long enough, falling short about
fifty yards.

Had the fire gained greater headway
before being discovered it is doubtful
if the building would have been saved.
As it is, completion, which had been
promised by April 1, will probably be
delayed. Hereafter no smoking will
be allowed inside the building.

Aid Summoned from Richmond.
Help was summoned from the Rich-
mond Fire Department, and though the
clubhouse is four or five miles from the
city, a chemical wagon, in charge of
Captain Lawrence, was dispatched from
Richmond.

Dr. J. A. Boldridge has resigned as
an interne at the Retreat for the Sick,
and will commence the practice of
medicine in Culpeper county. Dr.
Boldridge is a graduate of the
Medical College of Virginia.

John T. Wilson Lowest Bidder.
John T. Wilson & Company, contrac-
tors, have been awarded the contract
for a five-story office building to be
erected in Danville for L. Horman.
The lowest bid was \$72,000, and the
other bids were \$75,000, \$72,000, \$77,976,
\$73,200 and \$72,325.

Charged With Assault.
William Anderson (colored) was ar-
rested yesterday for alleged assault
on Richard Dickerson.
Lily Payne (colored) was arrested
on a charge of assaulting Willie
Hatchett.

Mr. Edmunds at St. Luke's.
A. C. Edmunds, of Danville, is at St.
Luke's Hospital for a few days under
treatment.

Noted Minister Holding Revival



Rev. Curtis Lee Laws, D. D., of New
York, will conduct revival services
this week at the Grace Street Baptist
Church. The meetings last week were
well attended, and at two services yester-
day the house was filled to its ca-
pacity. Dr. Laws is one of the most

eminent Baptist ministers in the East,
and the effect of his preaching here
has been to call forth a widespread
interest. Dr. Laws will conduct ser-
vices each afternoon and night during
this week. His object for to-night is
"Pitching the Tent Toward Sodom; or,
The Toboggan Slide to Doom."

HEAR BARRINGER CHARGES FRIDAY

Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Meets at Blacksburg to
Make Investigation.

For the purpose of investigating the
charges brought against Dr. Paul B.
Barringer, president of the Virginia
Polytechnic Institute, the board of
visitors of that school will meet at
the college at Blacksburg on Friday
next at noon. The length of the
investigation is, of course, a matter of
course.

The charges were brought by Law-
rence Priddy, of New York, chairman
of the welfare committee of the Gen-
eral Alumni Association. They were
presented at a meeting held in Rich-
mond some weeks ago, and Dr. Bar-
ringer was given until March 25 to
prepare his answer. Testimony will, it
is understood, be taken on both sides.
The details of the charges have been
presented several times. That the board
considers them serious is proven by the
fact that every opportunity will be given
to demonstrate or disprove them.

Much interest is being taken in the
matter, not only by the officials mem-
bers of the board, but by all friends
of the college and alumni in all parts
of the country.

The board is composed as follows:
H. M. Smith, Richmond; J. S. Mus-
grave, Pinpoint; E. St. Clair, Rich-
mond; Charles G. Kizer, Norfolk; L. E.
Johnson, Roanoke; R. J. Noel, East
Haddford; Leslie D. Kline, Vancleave; J.
Cullin Carrington, Charlotte Court-
House.

Interne at Retreat Resigned.
Dr. J. A. Boldridge has resigned as
an interne at the Retreat for the Sick,
and will commence the practice of
medicine in Culpeper county. Dr.
Boldridge is a graduate of the
Medical College of Virginia.

BUNK STOKES WILL BE MARRIED TO-DAY

Widely Known Amazon Leaves
Jail in Time for
Nuptials.

Offering repentance and with a plea
on her lips for forgiveness for the sins
of omission and commission which
have made her notorious since almost
the days of her childhood, Martha Ann
Taylor, alias Bunk Stokes, informed
officers of the First Police Station
several nights ago that she was to be
married to-day, and that she would
mend her ways. That same night Bunk
went into a fight with one of her Ama-
zonian enemies and kicked her to a
finish. She was arrested, and Saturday
morning was fined in Police Court.

It was thought at first that the
wedding would have to be postponed.
But the house has been swept and gar-
nished for the bridegroom's coming,
and, if all goes well, Bunk will be a
married woman to-day. The man of
her choice is William White, who has
but recently completed a short stay
in the house over the hill. During that
season of meditation Bill's heart yearned
for Bunk, and Bunk did not forget
her Bill, except when she was lustily
wading through her enemies. For
Bunk bears the well-known reputation of
being a good fighter, and she is the
hen of the walk in her community. She
has probably "rolled" more people than
any other person in the city, and for
some of her crimes she has served two
terms with the late Captain Morgan.

She has been in the lean-to on the
Shoemaker more times than she can re-
member, and she has been the most
devoted and constant friend of Justice
Crutchfield that he ever had. Here has
for many years been a familiar face
in Police Court. A sniffer and seller
of coke, she has given the police much
trouble. But now she repents of her
manifold sins, and has promised to for-
sake the pleasant road to perdition for
the straight and narrow path.

So with a penitent heart and a prayer
that her good resolutions may not
leave her, Bunk will swear to-day to
live, honor and obey Bill White until
death do them part. In this prayer the
police join her, and wish her luck,
prosperity and long life.

UNION OF CITIES SEEMS ASSURED

Consolidation Club of Manchester
Claims to Have Majority of
Voters Enrolled.

RUMORS OF CONTESTS HEARD

Almost Every Citizen Now Allied
to One Faction or the
Other.

Forces for and against consolidation
are lining up in Manchester for the
last race of the fight, which, when
the whistle blows on the night of
April 4, will either make Richmond
and Manchester one city, or postpone
indefinitely the third effort for an-
nexation. Though up to this time the
contest has been one-sided and all in
favor of the annexation people, they
are not resting on their oars, and will
keep up their aggressive tactics until
it is all over. On the other hand, the
"antis," despite the fact that thus far
they have been playing an uphill and
losing game, have by no means given
up, and declare that every point will
be contested until the matter is de-
cided for all time. Meetings will be
held almost nightly up to the time the
polls are closed.

Rumors of Contest.
Although there was no contest be-
fore Judge Christian, of Lynchburg,
who sat in the Corporation Court, on the
place of Judge Wells, and announced
the election day for April 4, it was rum-
ored in Manchester yesterday that the
opposition, through its attorneys,
would file in the Corporation Court to-
day, extensions to the order to be heard
before Judge Wells.

Little credence is given to this, how-
ever, as it is held that inasmuch as
Judge Wells was not eligible to set the
date of the election, it would certainly
be improper for him to hear any com-
plaints. Then, too, after passing high
the election day for April 4, it was rum-
ored in Manchester yesterday that the
opposition, through its attorneys,
would file in the Corporation Court to-
day, extensions to the order to be heard
before Judge Wells.

From the very time that the ordi-
nance was certified to the city of Man-
chester, the Consolidation Club, or-
ganized about that time, has been hold-
ing meetings and enrolling members
in the most systematic way. The sit-
uation now, barring legal technicalities
which are not expected, is that it is
all over but the celebration. Accord-
ing to data gathered by men ap-
pointed for the purpose, there are in
the city of Manchester about 750 vot-
ers qualified to cast their ballots in
this election.

Of these more than 400 have become
members of the club, the membership
requirements of which are that each
man not only vote in favor of annex-
ation, but use his influence. Stop-
ping at this point, therefore, it is as-
sured that there will be a safe major-
ity.

It cannot be expected that the en-
tirety of the city will turn out on
election day, even if the opposition has
been as active as the annexation peo-
ple. It is known that there are yet
quite a number of qualified voters who
are on the fence. Some of them will
fall on one side or the other, and the
rest will keep away from the polls.

Splendid Organization.
The Consolidation Club has gone into
the fight with a splendid organization,
taking the city by wards and counting
the voters, with the result that more
than 100 have been pledged in each
ward. True, the anti-annexation fac-
tion has a following which is strong in
will, if not in numbers. It has held
numerous meetings, some secret and
some open, at which influential men
have expressed their views. Their
methods have been different, however,
the gatherings having been more in
the nature of mass meetings. So far
as is known, only one or two ward
meetings have been held, and if they
have obtained an accurate poll of their
voters, the method of doing so has
been kept from the public. It is said
that several anti-annexation people
have openly stated that they would be
defeated at the polls, but that they
would fight to the end.

Even if exceptions are filed before
Judge Wells to-day, it is not expected
that this action will cause any delay,
as the election has been officially an-
nounced for April 4. After that time
there will be ten days in which the op-
position can contest the validity of the
election. If nothing is done in that
time, Judge Christian will return on
April 14 to certify the count and de-
clare the union effected according to
the laws of the State.

POLLARD WILL RE-ENTER FIELD

Vice-President and Chairman of
Finance Committee Consents
to Run Again.

MANY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Election One Month From To-
Day Will Determine City Gov-
ernment for Two Years.

Just one month from to-day the peo-
ple of Richmond will be called upon
to select from a small army of candi-
dates those whom they consider best
fitted to represent the city in the Com-
mon Council and the Board of Alder-
men for the next two years. Al-
though there has so far been but little
regular canvassing, a stiff fight is
scheduled in each ward, and every as-
pirant is mending his fences preparatory
to entering the home stretch. Thus
far the City Committee has only
named the date of the primary, but
will hold another session next Friday
to decide upon the assessment of can-
didates and the time limit. Each day
for the last week or two new entries
have been made, and a good many
more are expected before the books are
officially closed. Incidentally, some of
the old ones who had expressed their
intention of withdrawing from the
race have yielded to the solicitation
of their friends and will again be in
the running.

Pollard Will Run Again.
Most notable of the latter is Council-
man H. R. Pollard, Jr., vice-president
of the Common Council and Chairman
of the Finance Committee. Some time
ago Mr. Pollard announced that he
would not again be a candidate for
the Council, but because of numerous
requests not only from his own con-
stituents, but voters of all parts of
the city, he has decided to again be
a candidate.

A large number of citizens interest-
ed in the progress of Richmond, irre-
spective of ward lines, but acquainted
with the valuable services of Mr. Pol-
lard in the Council, have called upon
him and persuaded him to again an-
nounce himself for the Council from
Lee Ward.

Mr. Pollard has long been consid-
ered one of the ablest men in the
Council, and has taken an active part
in all questions of importance since
he was first elected about six years
ago. He was appointed chairman of the
Finance Committee when the present
Council was organized, and has held
the position with signal success. At
the death of Vice-President E. H.
Spence last year a joint session of the
Common Council and the Board of
Aldermen unanimously elected him to
the vice-presidency. He also officiated
as chairman of the Consolidation Com-
mittee which drew up the terms of
annexation of Richmond to Manches-
ter to be settled by an election in that
city next month.

Huber Is in Race.
Councilman Harry Huber, who some
time ago announced that he would not
run, has also reconsidered and will
again be a candidate. From Henry
Ward, David Meade White, of Mid-
son Ward, who has represented that
ward in the Common Council, but did
not offer for re-election at the last
election, has come out again, and W.
L. White, of Lee, defeated in Madson
Ward in the last primary, has also
entered. Marx Gunst, formerly Alder-
man from Monroe, is one of the strong
candidates for the same office in Lee
ward, where he recently moved. John
F. Don Leavy, now Councilman from
Clay Ward, will offer from that ward
for the Board of Aldermen, in com-
pany with Aldermen Mitchell and Col-
trill, who came up for re-election. As
the incumbents both voted against con-
solidation, and Mr. Don Leavy was a
member of the committee which pre-
pared the ordinance and worked for
its adoption the fight will be largely
on that issue.

Councilman T. Francis Green, now
representing Monroe Ward, has moved
into Lee, and will run from that sec-
tion.

Traffic Club Exhibit.
The big Traffic Club exhibit which
is to be held in the Railroad Y. M.
C. A. building for the week beginning
April 1 is attracting a great deal of
attention. Pictures from all parts of
the country are now being hung pre-
paratory to the event. This week
the Norfolk and Western will bring
here its miniature farm with a fine
display of pictures. Final plans for
the exhibition will be announced later
on this week.

Easter Dance.
The Tube Rose Social Club, an or-
ganization composed of the young
people of Church Hill, will give an
Easter dance at Masonic Hall on
Twenty-fifth Street, Easter Monday
night. The dancing will begin at 8:30
o'clock, and refreshments will be
served at 11:30 o'clock. Members and
their friends are invited to be pres-
ent.

Opening Week

We are ready with a stock of Spring
wearing apparel that Excels any of our
previous Efforts.

We invite your inspection.

Gans-Rady Company

PIANO MEN PLAN UNIQUE DISPLAY

Great Convention Will Bring
1,000 Visitors to Rich-
mond.

While yet nearly two months off,
arrangements are rapidly being made
for the reception of the ninth annual
convention of the National Association
of Piano Dealers of America, which
will meet in this city from May 13 to
21, inclusive. In connection with this
convention will also be held the con-
vention of the piano traveling men and
a great exhibition of the most promi-
nent dealers in North America. The
deliberations of the main convention
will be held in the Jefferson Hotel
Auratum, and the exhibition in the
Horse Show Building, which is now
being fitted up for the occasion.
Through other conventions of these as-
sociations have been held in cities
larger than Richmond, present indica-
tions are that this will be by far the
largest and most successful annual
gathering ever held.

Unique Display of Pianos.
The feature exciting most interest is
the exhibition which will be held in
connection with the regular meeting
from May 16 to 21. This is the first
national event of its kind ever held in
the United States, and dealers from
about the country are now arranging for
their space in the Horse Show Build-
ing. It is not a commercial proposi-
tion, and no piano shows will be
made. Already the greater portion of
the building allotted for the displays
has been reserved.

It has been planned to devote one
evening of the exhibition to the en-
tertainment of Richmond people, and
for the night the United States Ma-
rine Band, of Washington, has been
engaged to assist in the festivities. In
return, the Chamber of Commerce will
entertain the members of the conven-
tion for one day. They will number
from 1,000 to 1,500 visitors.

President E. H. Droop, of Washing-
ton, has been made a special visitor to
the city, and is now actively in charge
of the arrangements.

It is estimated that in order to place
the Horse Show Building in shape
for the reception of the exhibition
more than \$25,000 will have to be ex-
pended. Already a large force of men
has been put to work remodeling the
building. Besides this, several thou-
sand dollars will be expended for a
large annex in which the expert work
will be done and the instruments as-
sembled.

Rooms to Be Sound-Proof.
General Manager C. H. Green, of
New York, has spent some time here
in arranging the details of the build-
ing, and has had drawings prepared,
showing the locations of the exhibition
rooms. Beginning at the main en-
trance, the rooms will be arranged in
there will be a double row of rooms
and around it with a space between,
there will be others occupying the po-
sition of the boxes. A bandstand has
been situated in the far end and music
will be rendered through each day
of the exhibition.

The building of the rooms will be
the most expensive part of the work
of making ready for the exhibition.
Each one has to be so constructed
that although side by side, an instru-
ment played in one cannot be heard in
the other. The entire interior will
be elaborately decorated.

HARNES STRIKE
President Cottrell Expresses Apprecia-
tion of Work of His Men.

C. C. Cottrell, president of the Cot-
trell Saddlery Company, in further
discussing the strike which is said to have
been called at the company's plant for
to-day, gave out the following state-
ment concerning the employees:
"In alluding to the fact that a strike
has been called for to-morrow at the
Cottrell Saddlery Company's plant, I
used on yesterday certain expressions
which might be interpreted by those
who do not know me to reflect upon the
men in my employ. I had no such
intent, and in fact I am firm in the
belief that the men employed by us,
for the most part, are of high charac-
ter and integrity. I have not been
approached by any one, but I desire, of
my own volition, to testify to the re-
gard in which we hold our employees."

WOMAN FIGHTS WAY TO FREEDOM

Smashes Plate Glass of Store
Door When Lock-
ed In.

Imprisoned, it is alleged, by her
brother-in-law, El C. Meyer, of the
firm of A. M. Meyer & Brother, jewel-
ers, at 317 East Broad Street, Mrs. A.
M. Meyer was detained in the store
very much against her will Saturday
night until, after vain appeals to men
who were passing the store, she picked
up a stool and smashed her way
through the glass door to freedom.

"The trouble," it is said, was over the
accounting of the day's receipts, Mr.
Meyer having threatened, it is alleged,
that he would fight his sister-in-law
"tooth and nail" for the money. Through
her husband, who is a patient
in a hospital just outside of Boston,
she has a half interest in the store,
and it is stated that there have been
several disagreements between her
and her husband's brother, who owns the
other half-interest in the jewelry firm.

Young Girl Tells of Row.
Sophie Meyer, Mrs. A. M. Meyer's
fifteen-year-old daughter, was in the
store at the time, and was a witness
of the whole proceeding. She said
that, after having been out for a time,
her uncle returned and began abusing
her mother, at one time threatening
to kill her.

The little girl said that there were
three people in the store, and she was
very much frightened.
In order to stop the flow of abuse
directed at her, Mrs. Meyer, according
to the girl, began to sing. But finding
that her song did not appease his
wrath, she asked Sophie to open the
door. Mr. Meyer, according to the
girl, stepped forward and locked the
door, keeping the keys. The girl's
mother pleaded in vain to be released,
the experience of being detained two
hours on Thursday night against her
will having proved too much for her
nerves.

"My uncle continued his abuse of
poor mama," said the girl, her voice
breaking as she narrated the story of
the alleged cruel treatment of her
mother, and wouldn't let us out.
Mama asked some men who were pass-
ing by the door to come to her assist-
ance, but none of them would give any
help. She told me to open the door,
but uncle dared me to, and she picked
up a stool and smashed out the glass
in the door, and we came out to-
gether."

Mr. Meyer Will Not Discuss It.
Mr. Meyer was seen in his home at
513 East Leigh Street, last night, but
refused to say anything. He was in
trouble, Mrs. Meyer's sister-in-law,
was out when a Times-Dispatch repre-
sentative called at her home, 513 North
Sixth Street. Sophie, the mother of
four children, spoke for her mother.
She said that her father had been ill
since October, and that her mother
was accused of being insane and was
in the hospital authorities.

"But Uncle Eli," she said, "has never
spent so much as a 2-cent stamp to
write to him and gets all his reports
from mother."

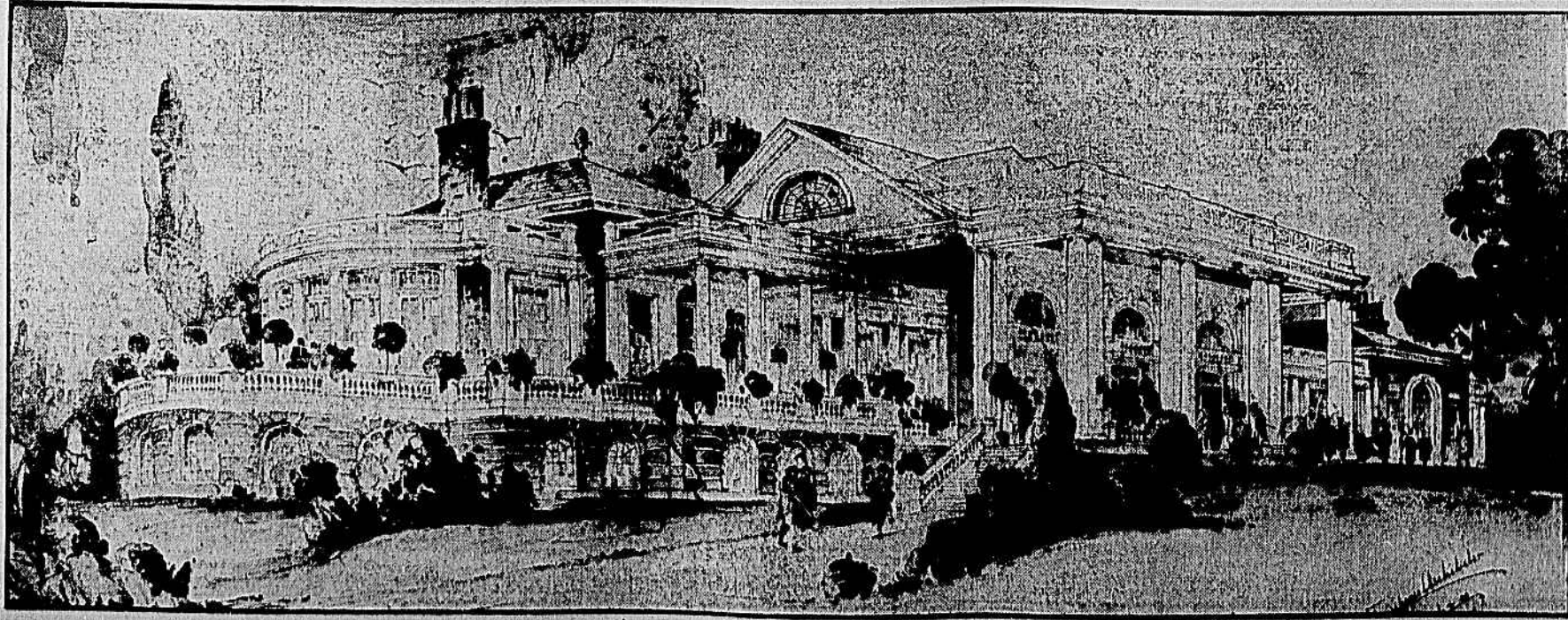
She complained bitterly of the al-
leged treatment of her mother Thurs-
day night, and said that she was in the
store, said the girl, until her uncle
became tired of staying any longer.
She said that an aunt, Mrs. Yetta Fox,
511 North Sixth Street, was in the store
at the time, siding with her brother.

No Report to Police.
The girl's voice broke several times
as she told her story. She is devoted
to her father and mother, and said
that it would hurt her to the quick when
she heard her mother so soundly and
cruelly abused. She said that no war-
rant had been sworn out, and thought
that her mother would return to the
store to-day. She is there, said the
daughter, simply to look after her
husband's interests.

The ruined door was barricaded last
night, and all the broken glass had
been swept away. It was stated by
another who had heard of the inci-
dent that one of the men who heard
Mrs. Meyer's vain appeal for assist-
ance just before she smashed the door,
thought it was merely a quarrel be-
tween man and wife, and, therefore,
did not intervene. No report of the
affair was made to the police.

Mrs. Meyer has no relatives in
Richmond, but has several living in
New York.

HOME OF COUNTRY CLUB OF VIRGINIA ENDANGERED BY FIRE



TEACHERS INVADE RICHMOND

Excursion from Detroit Puts in Day

The first excursion of the Easter
season reached here over the Ches-
apeake and Ohio yesterday afternoon.
The crowd was composed of thirty-
eight teachers from the schools of De-
troit, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. E.
H. Ayer. They came directly to this
city and are leaving by boat for Nor-
folk this morning. From that place
they go to Washington, and from there
by Baltimore, Philadelphia and New
York, returning to Detroit next Sat-
urday.

Reaching here about 3 o'clock yester-
day afternoon, the party registered at
the Lexington Hotel. The afternoon
and night were spent in visiting points
of interest and attending services in
the various churches.

Members of the party are Mr. and
Mrs. Ayer, Mrs. A. F. Knoblock, Mrs.
R. B. Hauman and son, Mrs. William
McLeman and son, Mrs. Lulu Butler
and son, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Walton,
Dr. and Mrs. L. J. Goux, Mrs. S. Han-
ford, Misses Flora Williams, Ethel Dick-
ard, Mary E. Northrup, Miss G. Cross,
Grace Hubbard, Emily Daniel, Maud
Hawley, J. D. Knight, Abbie Kuehner,
Clara Maletsky, Irene Thompson, Min-
nie Behrader, Elsie Haddock, M. F.
Powell, J. L. Hill, Little Blunnie, Ma-
tilda (Irvine), Laura M. Naylor, Flora
Burklaye, Madge Carroll and Madge
Blattley, John Naylor, John L. Naylor
and W. A. Ellis.